

REMARKS

Status Summary

Claims 21 and 23-37 are pending, and claims 1-20 and 22 were previously canceled. The prior rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is withdrawn. Objections to specification formalities are maintained. Claims 21, 25, 27-31, and 33-36 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the documents of record.

Claims 23, 26, and 32 are amended. Claims 21, 25, 27-31, and 33-36 are canceled. The specification is amended in response to the examiner's objections. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the amendments and remarks herein.

Objections to the Specification

The examiner objects to the specification with regard to formal requirements and requests (1) updating of priority information, (2) submission of a title that more clearly describes the claimed invention, and (3) amendment of the abstract to similarly describe the claimed invention. Official action, page 2, items 3-5. These changes are made as indicated above. With respect to priority information, applicants note that a preliminary amendment was made to identify the instant application as a division of Application No. 09/383,916, filed August 26, 1999, which is a divisional of Application No. 08/487,550, filed June 7, 1995. The priority claim is further updated to denote that the '550 application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,113,898.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 23, 26, 32, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Official action, page 5, item 9. Claim 23 is now rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of claim 21 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 26, 32, and 37 are amended to depend from claim 23 and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 24 depends from claim 23 and is also believed to be in condition for allowance based on absence of any outstanding rejections.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

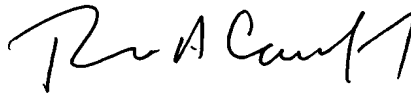
Claims 21, 25, 27-31, and 33-36 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,304,635 to Imam et al. in view of Delabie et al.

(1993) *Blood* 82:2845-52 and/or Munro et al. (1994) *Blood* 83:793-98, and/or Falini et al. (1992) *Lancet* 339:1195-96. Official action, pages 3-4, item 8. To facilitate prosecution, applicants respectfully request cancellation of claims 21, 25, 27-31, and 33-36 without prejudice.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue, which the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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